



# Oregon

Kate Brown., Governor

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Office of the Director

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

(503) 947-6044

FAX (503) 947-6042

odfw.com

**Date:** April 18, 2019

**To:** The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources



## House Bill 2068 A

Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Dr. Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2068 A. House Bill 2068 A would amend ORS 497.112 to increase the percentage of tags issued to nonresidents from 3% to 5% for any controlled hunts authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Commission for black bear and cougar.

During hunting regulation simplification efforts, department staff identified the inconsistency in non-resident controlled hunt tag caps among game species. By raising the cap on nonresident tags from 3% to 5% on controlled hunts for cougar and bear the caps will be more consistent across most game species. This consistency will improve and streamline the controlled hunt draw process and simplify the hunting regulation synopsis language to a degree.

Controlled hunts consist of a quota of tags set to maintain an allowable harvest level within a designated hunt area. To purchase a tag for a controlled hunt area residents and nonresident hunters must apply for the controlled hunt tag and be successfully drawn from among the applicant pool. Nonresident tag caps in most controlled hunts are not set aside or “guaranteed” to nonresidents. Residents and nonresidents participate in the same structured draw process, but if the nonresident limitation is reached for a controlled hunt, no additional nonresident tags will be awarded.

An increase of the nonresident cap in spring bear controlled hunts could have a corresponding reduction of tags awarded to residents. In 2018, the department issued 9,221 spring bear tags. While the nonresident limitation of spring bear tags was 3% overall, only 2% of spring bear tags were drawn by nonresidents. Based on our best estimates, a 5% cap would increase the number of non-resident spring black bear tags by no more than 188.

Currently there are no controlled hunts for cougar or for fall bear, so there will be no impact to tag allocation to residents or non-residents from House Bill 2068 A.

### **CONTACTS:**

**Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director, (503) 947-6044**